Kingston Nov 15th 1871

My dear friend -

I was very glad to receive your letter - I thought of writing you in the summer, & asking your advice as to what articles would be most suitable to make for the fair - but depend it, thinking I should be in Boston, & intended seeing you for that purpose - afterward I decided not to go myself - but my daughter call'd when in the city at your house, & you were not at home. We have made arrangements for sending you some things, but I fear not to the same amount as the last year - you know of what a spasmodic nature zeal is with many people - nevertheless some few among us, have persevered under all discouragements from the lukewarm & the indifferent, & have devoted an afternoon of each week, for some time past in working for the fair. It rejoiced ~~my~~ strengthened my heart to have you speak so encouragingly - as I frankly confess to you, - there have been times within the last 18 months, when I have felt that as a society, our work was almost done - that we shd have in future to depend upon individual effort - what was formerly all harmony, seemd to bring forth many discordant sounds - doubts have sometimes arisen, whether Mr Garrison, strange as it appears to say so, was not growing somewhat conservative in many of his opinions - whether he was not very harsh with those, true friends of the slave tho' they were, who differed from him upon some points - then, it seemd to me, that all has not been satisfactorily explaind with respect to Mr Collins & the business affairs of the Society - I have not ventured to mention these things, because I could not shake the faith of any, upon a mere surmise of my own, & with my limited opportunities of judging - I have therefore gone on doing just the same, trusting to the good judgment of yourself & others, who knew all the circumstances - I have not seen our kind friend Mr May, for a long while, for perhaps some of these questions might have been solved

by him - I acknowledge they have caused me a good deal of pain - when I thought of the sacrifices that had been made, even here, for the cause, I felt as if every cent of the money, was a sacred treasure - but I trust that brighter days are in prospect, & that the labors of the devoted few, will be amply rewarded by the ease, if not rapid progress of the great principles of liberty & humanity - it seems to me, the soul is approaching nearer to the true freedom which is so much to be coveted than it has ever yet done - I do not presume to give any advice about the Fair, I can only say, the idea struck me very pleasantly, as I think it did all the friends here - I can easily imagine the labor in getting it up must be great, but I well know that will not deter you - I am obliged for yr kind offer about the silks, if we have any more to make up we shall be happy to send them - we have still some trifling funds at our disposal, if there is any particular articles that will be acceptable to you - I have never attended a fair, therefore cannot so well judge what will be most saleable.
Our Organization hired one of our working women to assist them, poverty proving more powerful than opinion - altho you have been sometime returned, I feel as if with every true friend of the slave, I must be allowed to offer you my congratulations upon yr safe return home - I felt as if the cause could not well spare from its immediate sphere of action, one so devoted & untiring - I believe you & your sisters occasionally visit Duxbury, it is quite near us, & it will give me great pleasure to see you & them, at my mothers house - with very kind regards - I am with much

respect Yrs I. W. Thomas.

Mrs. S. W. Thomas

Nov. 1841

paid

Mrs Maria W. Chapman

Care of Mrs Henry Chapman

Boston

No 6 Chauncy Place